

RAILWAYS IN EUROPE.

AN EXPERT ON THEIR INFERIORITY TO THOSE OF AMERICA.

A Chat with Chauncey M. Depew—A System of Railroads That Smacks of the Middle Ages—Young America in Germany.

"One thing is quite certain," said Mr. Chauncey M. Depew to a correspondent, "that no railway company in the United States could run trains on the European plan and retain its charter. The whole system over there seems to me to be a system of barbarism that smacks of the Middle Ages, and I will tell you why I think so. In the first place, no one is safe in the small compartments. You are left there alone with several other strangers; perhaps only two or three and often but one. And this one may be a thief, a lunatic or even a murderer, with the others as his confederates. Under such conditions, then, you are shut up in a miserable box for an hour or more, while the train, thundering on, drowns any cries that you could make in case of an attack. The signal bell is out of reach, and if you are unarmed or doze for a moment you are quite at the mercy of any villain who may be traveling with you. Fortunately, the evil consequences of this system are not so great in Europe as they certainly would be in the United States, for there the criminal classes seem to be less daring than with us. But even as it is, robberies, murders and assaults are so frequent on continental railways as to convince any fair minded person that men travel in Europe at the risk of their lives and women at the risk of their honor.

"Then compare the two systems as regards conveniences offered to the public. I pass over untouched what travelers in America have long since learned to consider as railway necessities, but which are absolutely unknown in Europe. I refer to adequate arrangements for eating, sleeping, lighting, heating, amusement, etc.

LACK OF CONVENIENCES.

"But I must emphasize one glaring deficiency, which is so utterly inexcusable that in the United States it would simply cause a riot. I mean the fact that continental trains are without even the most primitive toilet conveniences. The annoyance and suffering occasioned thereby is incalculable. Think of the feeble women and elderly men, of the invalids and children, who are forced to put up with such monstrous neglect. To be sure the companies pretend to furnish these accommodations at the stations, but as the runs are very long, the stops short, and the weather often inclement, many persons are unable to leave the train and take advantage of even these wretched accommodations.

"Here is an illustration of the abuses of this system. I mention a case which has come under my own personal observation. An American lady left her seat to enter one of these cabinets, and she was actually locked in and kept there until the train had moved off, simply because, having left her purse in the cars, she was unable to pay the few sous that were demanded.

"Another serious discomfort on European railways is caused by the incessant jolting, due very largely to the small size and faulty construction of the cars. If you happen to ride in the forward carriage of one of their express trains, you are thrown up and down and from side to side with a violence which would only be equaled in the United States on one of the old curdery roads over a western prairie, where the rails had been laid simply on the ground without grading.

YOUNG AMERICA IN GERMANY.

"I will illustrate the autocratic character of European government railway management by two incidents which I know to be authentic. A party of American students, traveling through Germany, reached the station just as their train was starting. An official called out to them not to attempt getting on, but as the cars were moving slowly they paid no attention to his caution and stepped aboard. The result was that at the next stop they were met by a guard of soldiers and all marched off under arrest. At first the young Americans treated the whole affair as a huge joke and inquired with mock seriousness when the trial would come off. But they changed their tone on being informed that, having deliberately violated an ordinance of the German empire, they had been already tried, convicted and sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment. In fact, before they realized the gravity of their situation, they were behind iron bars in the city jail, and it required the influence of the American legation at Berlin, together with the most humiliating apologies on their own parts, to effect their release.

"A friend of mine was the hero of the other incident, which happened at the Frankfurt depot. He was about to enter a compartment, where several seats were vacant, when he distinctly saw one of the gentlemen inside slip a gold piece into the hand of the guard, who immediately declared that the compartment was 'reserved' and that no one else could ride in it. My friend was so angry that he at once accused the fellow of having received a bribe, and on the charge being denied he added, with American directness, that the guard was 'a liar and a thief.' The train moved off, my friend being forced to find another seat. At the first station he was arrested for having insulted a government official, and finally, after a great deal of trouble, followed a lawyer's advice, made a full apology, paid all the costs and a heavy fine and left the country in disgust. Just imagine—if you can—such a thing happening in the United States!"—Philadelphia Times Interview.

TALK ABOUT TATTOOING.

A "Professor" Tells What Becomes of the Tattooed Ladies—War Recollections.

A proficient "professor" in the art of tattooing was found in his office by a reporter the other day, busily engaged in picking a figure of liberty upon the back of a sailor. In answer to a series of questions the professor said: "I have followed this business for thirty years and have always made a good living by it. My receipts from March to October of this year amounted to \$1,375. Fairly good business, isn't it? My patrons come from all classes of society. Merchants, lawyers, doctors, clerks, men engaged in every walk of life come here to be decorated. I tattoo a large number of ladies also. Some of them come here in carriages closely veiled, and I never see their faces. Lovers come here frequently to be marked with emblems of fidelity. I have many curious cases brought to my notice in this way. I remember one in particular. It was during the late war. I was with the Army of the Potomac at the time, tattooing the soldiers right and

left with marks of identification. A young man came into my tent one day leading by the hand a girl. They were betrothed. I picked the girl's name—Mary Burns—over the man's heart, and his name—Thomas Smith—over hers. Later in the war the man was killed. His body was identified by this mark, and his sweetheart gave him a respectable burial. The girl has received many offers of marriage, I am told, but that name over her heart keeps her true to the memory of the soldier.

"After the war," he continued, "my business was slack for a time, until Constantinople, the Greek, made his appearance in Barnum's show. He was first discovered as mate of a sailing vessel which lay in Boston harbor with a cargo of fruits and spices from the Mediterranean. His face only was tattooed then, but Barnum engaged him, had his entire body pricked with fantastic figures by Jack Florence of Boston, invented the story of his exile among savages, and exhibited him with great success. I saw my chance and went into the same business. I turned out tattooed women for the dime museums and traveling shows as fast as I was able. They invented stories of shipwreck, exile and marvelous rescues with all the horrible details they could imagine. It paid well for a time, but the public discovered the fake and tattooed ladies are now a drug in the market.

"What becomes of them? Why, they marry, of course, and settle down. Annie Grace of Philadelphia, one of my most successful works of art, after earning \$50 a week in the exhibition business, has married a man worth at least \$100,000. Little Maria, another protégée of mine, is married to a fine gentleman worth \$80,000, and I have heard that two other girls whom I have beautified have done equally well. It takes from six weeks to two months to go over the whole figure artistically, and the cost of the completed work amounts to from \$250 to \$300. A single design costs anywhere from \$1 to \$25."—New York Evening Sun.

ABUSE OF THE TOOTH PICK.

An Unobjectionable Little Instrument When Used at Proper Times.

The tooth pick, when used with discretion and at proper times and in proper places, is an unobjectionable little instrument. Its occasional employment is, as a rule, necessary to cleanliness and the preservation of the teeth. So, also, is the use of the tooth brush. This adjunct of the toilet is, however, never used in public. The person who, after partaking of a meal, should proceed to publicly use his tooth brush would speedily find himself banished from decent society. Yet such action would be less objectionable to witness than the service to which some people who pretend to refinement and culture put the tooth pick. There is but one place in which it may be rightly used—the dressing room—and no person who has the slightest consideration for the feelings of others will handle it anywhere else.

It would seem to be almost unnecessary to make such statements as those in the foregoing paragraph. No one possessing any delicacy of feeling or squeamishness of digestion will dream of contravening them. And yet the public use of the tooth pick is daily increasing, and has already reached proportions that strike the foreign visitor with astonishment and disgust, and make the lives of many of our citizens anything but agreeable.

The practice has doubtless grown owing to the large number of people who live or have lived in hotels and boarding houses, where toothpicks were furnished with the idea that guests would take them to their rooms, and in some of the good hotels guests can even now only procure toothpicks at the doors by which they leave the dining rooms. In other hotels and in many boarding houses, and also, it is said to have to write, in some private houses, the toothpick holder is a regular ornament (it of the meal table, and its contents are assiduously worked.

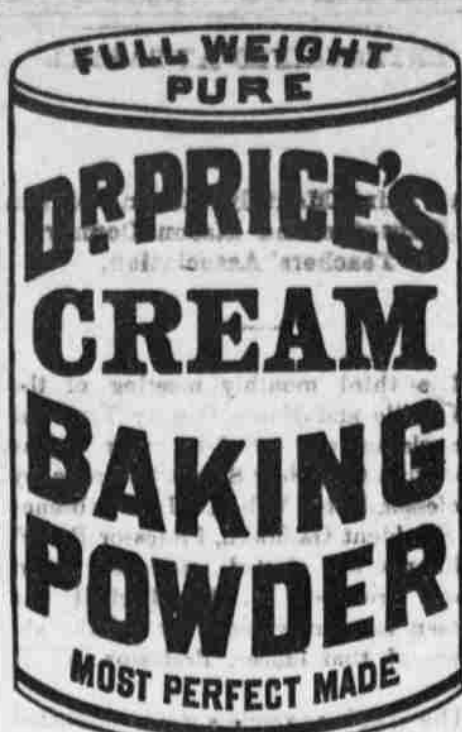
In no other country that the writer has ever visited have toothpicks been publicly used in private houses or in the presence of women. An English woman or a French woman of the better class not only never dreams of using a toothpick before people, but she considers it something that it is more pleasant not even to mention. Here, however, it is no uncommon occurrence to hear a lady ask for the toothpicks, and select one that she thinks will fit her needs.—The Epoch.

The "Lightning Calculator."

I was much interested during a recent visit to the exposition by an adding machine deftly manipulated by a young man with the most astonishing results. It may be all right, but it will never, to my notion, succeed the present system of attaining the total of a column of figures. For a century past the world has been given "lightning calculators" and glib tongued men have stood on the corners and with blackboard and chalk have shown how the work of the plodding accountant can be reduced from hours almost to seconds. Yet what business house or bank would for a minute retain a bookkeeper or accountant in its employ who depended upon one of these seemingly brilliant schemes to quick results? I have known men who could run up three rows of figures at a time, but I never knew one yet who, after having done so, did not, with a proper regard to his own responsibility for any accruing errors, run over the three columns in the old fashioned way of put down the 1 and carry the 9 to be sure that the first result "proved."—Accountant in Globe-Democrat.

Love Songs in Afghanistan.

Love songs are plentiful with the Afghans, though whether they are acquainted with love is rather doubtful. Woman with the Afghans is a purchasable commodity. She is not wooed and won with her own consent; she is bought from her father. The average price of a young and good looking girl is from about 500 to 500 rupees. To reform the ideas of an Afghan upon that matter would be a desperate task. When Said Ahmed, the great Wahab leader, the prophet, leader and king of the Yusufzai Afghans, tried to abolish the marriage by sale his power fell at once. He had to flee for his life, and died an outlaw. There is no song in the world so sad and dismal as that which is sung to the bride by her friends. They come to congratulate—no, to console her, like Jephtha's daughter; they go to her, sitting in a corner, and sing: You remain sitting in a corner and cry for us. What can we do for you? Your father has received the money. All of love that the Afghan knows is jealousy. All crimes are said to have their cause in one of the three z's—zamin or zom-money, earth or women. The third z is, in fact, the most frequent of the three causes.—Contemporary Review.



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